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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/024,920	12/18/2001	Claude O. Clerc	25,417	5559
7590	02/09/2005			EXAMINER
Theodore Naccarella Synnestvedt & Lechner LLP 2600 Aramark Tower 1101 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19107-2950			HO, UYEN T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3731	
			DATE MAILED: 02/09/2005	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/024,920	CLERC ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit		
(Jackie) Tan-Uyen T. Ho	3731		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 October 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 19-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-13, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 14-16 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date .

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim1-15, 17-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-13 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lau et al. (5,514,154). Lau et al. disclose a stent (10) being placed on a balloon (14) and the balloon being partially inflated to secure the stent on the exterior surface of the balloon and an outer tube (20) being place over the stent and the balloon wherein the stent is trapped between the balloon and the outer tube. The stent being made from self-expanded material (col. 6, line 61 to col. 7, line 35). The outer tube being move proximally to release the stent and distally to capture the stent and the balloon. Steps 7 and 8 are inherent, since the stent delivery system is configured such that the balloon need to be deflate and the system is to be remove after stent deployed. The order of the steps as claimed in claims 3-7 are inherent, since the order of the steps as claimed is necessary for Lau et al.' stent delivery procedure.

4. Claims 1-9, 13, 17, 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Di Caprio et al. (6,123,712). Di Caprio et al. disclose a method for delivering a stent

comprising the steps of provide a stent delivery device including a balloon (22), an inner tube (13), an inflated tube (42) and an outer tube (11); position a stent (18) on the balloon; inflating the balloon slightly to secure the stent onto the balloon thereby trapped the balloon within the outer tube during advancing the stent to a desired site. Steps 7 and 8 are inherent, since the stent delivery system is configured such that the balloon need to be deflate and the system is to be remove after stent deployed. The order of the steps as claimed in claims 3-7 are inherent, since the order of the steps as claimed is necessary for Di Caprio et al.' stent delivery procedure.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 14-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art fails to disclose or suggest a balloon being shorter than the stent.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to (Jackie) Tan-Uyen T. Ho whose telephone number is 571-272-4696. The examiner can normally be reached on MULTIFLEX Mon. to Sat..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, ANHTUAN NGUYEN can be reached on 571-272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3731

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


(Jackie) Tan-Uyen T. Ho
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3731

February 7, 2005